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HIS MAJESTIES LETTER

Vindication of Himself;

Dated at St. Germans-en-Laye, the Four-

teenth of this Instant January, 168⁸.

JAMES R.

MY LORDS; When We saw
that it was no longer safe for
us to remain within Our King-
dom of *England*, and that
thereupon We had taken Our resolutions to
withdraw for some time; We left to be com-
municated to you and to all Our Subjects
the Reasons of Our withdrawing: And
were likewise resolved at the same time to
leave such Orders behind us to you of Our
Privy-Council, as might best suit with the
present state of Affairs: But that being al-
together unfit for us at that time; We

now think fit to let you know, that though
it has been Our constant care since Our
first Accession to the Crown, to Govern
Our People with that Justice and Modera-
tion, as to give, if possible, no occasion
of Complaint; yet more particularly upon
the late Invasion, & seeing how the Design
was laid, and fearing that Our People, who
could not be destroy'd but by themselves,
might by little imaginary Grievances, be
cheated into a certain ruine: To prevent
so great a Mischief, and to take away not on-
ly all just Causes, but even Pretences of

Discontent; We freely, and of Our own may, We hope, if enough considered and record redressed all those Things that were reflected upon; together with his other Violations of that Invasion: tions & Breaches of the Laws and Liberties for- forth as the Cause of that Invasion: tions & Breaches of the Laws and Liberties And that We might be informed by the of *England*, which by this Invasion be pre- Counsel and Advice of Our Subjects, tended to restore, be sufficient to open the selves, which way We might give them. Eyes of all Our Subjects, and let them further and a full satisfaction; e We resolved plainly see what every one of them may to meet them in a Free Parliament; And in expect, and what Treatment they shall order to it, We first laid the foundation of find from him, if at any time it may serve such a Free Parliament, in restoring the Ci- his purpose, from whose hands a Sovereign ty of *London* and the rest of the Corpora- Prince, an Uncle, and a Father could meet tions to their ancient Charters and Privi- with no better Entertainment. ; However ledges; and afterwards actually appointed the cause of these Indignities, and the just the Writs to be issued out for the Parlia- apprehension of further Attempts against ments Meeting on the 15th of *January*; Our Person by them who already endea- s But the Prince of *Orange* seeing all the voured to murder Our Reputation by In- Ends of his Declaration answered, the Peo- famous Calumnies (as if We had been ca- ple beginning to be undeceived, and re- pable of a supposed Prince of *Wales*.) which turning a-pace to their ancient Duty and was incomparably more Injurious, then Allegiance; and well fore-seeing that if the Destroying of Our Person it Self; to- the Parliament should meet at the time ap- pointed, such a Settlement in all probability of Our Royal Father of Blessed Memory, would be made, both in Church and State, when He was in the like Circumstances, *I* that as would totally defeat his ambitious and there is little distance between the *Prisons* and unjust Designs, resolved by all means pos- sible to prevent the Meeting of the Parlia- the *Grave* of *Princes* (which afterwards proved too true in His Case) could not but ment; g And to do this the most effectual persuade Us to make use of that which the way, he thought fit to lay a restraint on Law of *Nature* gives to the meanest of Our Our Royal Person; for as it were absurd Subjects, of freeing Our selves by all means to call that a Free Parliament, where there possible from that unjust Confinement and is any Force on either of the Houses, so Refrain. k And this We did not more much less can that Parliament be said to act for the Security of Our own Person, than Freely where the Sovereign, by whose Au- that thereby We might be in a better Capa- thority they Meet and Sit, and from whose city of transacting and providing for every Royal Assent, all their Acts, receive their thing that may contribute to the Peace Life and Satisfaction, is under a total Confinement and Settlement of Our Kingdoms. For as near. The hurrying of Us under a Guard on the one hand, no change of Fortune from Our City of *London*, b whose return- shall ever make Us forget Our selves, so far as to Condescend to any thing, as becoming the other Indignities. We suffered in the that High and Royal Station, in which God Person of the Earl of *Arundel* when sent Alms by Right of Succession has placed ag him by Us, and in that barbarous Con- Us: 1. 60. on the other hand, neither the finement of Our own Person, We shall not Revocation or Migration of Our own here repeat, because they are, We doubt Subjects, nor any other Consideration what- not by this time, very well known; and soever, shall ever prevail with Us to make the

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the least step contrary to the True Interest. And in the mean time You of Our Privy Council (who can judge better by being and ever must look upon as Our own upon the place) are to send Us your Advice. OUR WILL and Pleasure therefore is, vice, what is fit to be done by Us towards That you of Our Privy-Council, take the Our Returning and the Accomplishing thereof most effectual Care to make the Our Good Ends. And We do require you in serious Intimations known to the Lords Spiritual and Temporal in about Our Cities of London and Westminster, to the Lord Mayor and Commissions of Our City of London, and to all Our Subjects in general; in And to assure them that We desire nothing more, than to return and hold a Free Parliament, wherein We may have the best opportunity of Undecieving Our People, and shewing the Sincerity of those Protections We have often made of the preserving the Liberties and Properties of Our Subjects and the Protestant Religion more especially the Church of England as by Law Establish'd, with such Indulgence for those that Dissent from Her, as We have always thought Our selves in Justice and Care of the general Welfare of Our People, bound to perform.

By His Majesties Command
M L F O R T

Directed thus to the Lords, and Others
Our Privy-Council of Our Kingdom

Remarks.

THIS Paper has been industriously and privately dispersed about the City, bearing swarted in another Paper, I shall here pass the Tale of his Majesties Letter, being the See for being indeed writ in a hurry, and read (said to be by the Romanists) with apprehensions of danger, it is possible his since his Desertion, to the Lords of the Privy Council might have been slip over; but being Council; and because we have yet a remnant of the Royal Privy Council, he has been pleased to tion left for the Father of our Remembrance, know what we have been hitherto we will for bear any severity in our Remarks, much ignorant of, and which our heads as may seem designedly to aggravate those mis- fortunes his Majesty may yet undergo, though fidelity still we have more material down we cannot altogether be silent in a matter that is more than words, will not readily let us off because us all under the heavy imputation of it by how wise and cautious his Majesty has been worst of Criminals: a His Majesty is pleased, giving his People any just cause of complaint in the beginning of his Letter to repeat the Recs. be guest? from this, that he has been says: he gave in first of his departure from a trample upon, and in effect annual there

and Privileges in the four years of his Reign, shows his Majesty has been placid and in the
 than his Predecessors for fourscore years has News: In How instrumental the Prince has
 made for our preservation: C Indeed as he been in defining his Majesty, especially in the
 is willing to suggest be made an offer of restoration of the P. of Wales, all the King dom
 tion and redress, but we may presume to be- come judge, and we all could wish his Majesty
 lieve be misrified his Game when saw the first Reputation may be proved innocent: and
 Trump turn'd up, and so like a wary Game- clear from so black a Design: However we
 ter was willing to change his Cards, or else wish that his Majesty had been pleas'd to have
 der himself to the good hap of another Deal: left the Tutors among us, which after the
 His Majesty is pleas'd to tell us he had a de- proof of his Birth of the Queen had been a great
 ire to have all grievances redress'd by a free- Scurry of his Title to the Crown: y At his
 Parliament, which be reject'd speedily to call, Majesty has receiv'd many signal proofs of our
 ut as this could not suit with the safety and love and duty, so in this Retirement of his, he
 wishes of some corrupt Ministers about him, so has been pleas'd to show us the first instance of
 e was readily perswaded to quit those intem- his care of our Safety, k and as his Majesty
 ns; and though some of the Writs were issued never gave us reason to suspect the intention of
 ui for their Sitting, yet he shew'd us the fir- his promises, never to molest or injure the
 erty of his meaning by his sudden withdrawal peace and interest of this Kingdom of England,
 g: C That the Prince might nothing else by so we cannot but in gratitude wish his Majesty
 us coming, then the settling the shaken foun- all the Peace and Quiet that his pious Zeal in-
 dations of our Laws and Religion, by an open clines him to. I His Majesty in his gracious
 and free Convention of the States, is plain, Confessions is pleas'd again to promise us the
 can his great moderation since their Sitting, preservation of our Laws and Liberties, and
 d we most justly say, he has been for with- glori- in the security of the Protestant Reli-
 gion, but because we cannot invent other means
 how not how we can believe his Majesty was Word, the repeated breach of which he has not
 er under restraint since his foregoing Declaration we yet unobscured to acknowledge, we can
 ns to contradict the Assertion: g I bet the surely be sure of his Majesties meaning, and
 y or Country had changed their resolution, may instead of finding redress of our grievances,
 cannot expect, and their constant at- be apprehended as Slanders, and punish'd
 ing to their first Address to the Prince, as Criminals.

P R I N T E D

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King
Vindicated